

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Inventors: Kenneth Heath Atty. Docket No.: RPS6043D1

Serial No.: unassigned Examiner: Leo B. Tentoni

Serial No. of

Prior Application: 09/549,127

Filing Date of

Prior Application: April 13, 2000 Art Unit: 1732

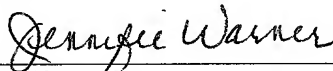
Entitled: APPARATUS FOR MAKING EMBOSSED BLISTER PACK

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
BOX – PATENT APPLICATION (FEE)
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(A)

Date of Deposit: 2/13/02

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, with sufficient postage, as Express Mail No. EL867966137US in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, BOX – PATENT APPLICATION, Washington, D.C. 20231.


Jennifer Warner

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The following Preliminary Amendment and Remarks are being filed contemporaneously with the Utility Application Transmittal form for a divisional application of prior application Serial No. 09/549,127, filed April 13, 2000. Entry of this Amendment prior to calculating the filing fee and consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. In the Title:

Please delete the title of this application in its entirety and replace therewith:

-- APPARATUS FOR MAKING EMBOSSED BLISTER PACK--

2006-12-20 14:25:00

II. In the Specification:

In the section entitled: Cross-Reference to Related Applications, directly under the title of the invention on page 1, please delete the paragraph in its entirety and replace with the following:

-- This application is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/549,127, filed April 13, 2000 which is a continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/GB99/02589 (WO 00/09313) filed 6 August 1999, which is based on and claims the benefit of priority to Great Britain Patent Application GB9817793.4 filed on 14 August 1998. --

Replacement page 1 is submitted herewith.

III. Please cancel claims 1 through 9 and 13.

Replacement claim pages are submitted herewith.

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application Serial No. 09/549,127, filed on May 13, 2000, which was filed as a continuation-in-part application of International Application No. PCT/GB99/02589, filed August 6, 1999 and claims priority to GB 9817793.4 filed August 14, 1998. This divisional application includes claims 10-12, which were withdrawn in the parent application. Claims 10-12 from the parent application have been renumbered claims 103 for the purposes of this divisional application. Applicant has canceled claims 1-9 and 13 that were originally filed as these claims were allowed in the parent application. Replacement pages are attached hereto which reflect the amendments made above. A complete copy of the prior application, including the oath or declaration as originally filed is also attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the prior application. Prior application Serial No. 09/549,127 is assigned of record to R.P. Scherer Corporation. A copy of the Recordation Cover Sheet as well as the Assignment document itself is enclosed herewith. The power of attorney in this divisional application and in the prior application is to Donald O. Nickey, Reg. No. 29,092; Michael D. Steffensmeier, Reg. No. 37,735; and Andrew G. Rozycki, Reg. No. 36,406; Cardinal Health, Inc., 7000 Cardinal Place, Dublin, Ohio 43017. Please address all future communications in this application to Andrew G. Rozycki. The Power appears as part of the Declaration in the original papers filed in prior Application Serial No. 09/549,127.

On January 23, 2002, Applicant received a Notice from the PTO indicating that the parent application is in condition for allowance, except for formal matters, and that prosecution on the merits is now closed. The undersigned hereby verifies that the attached papers are a true copy of the documents that were originally submitted in prior Application Serial No. 09/549,127, filed April 13, 2000.

Applicant respectfully requests examination and consideration thereof in light of this Preliminary Amendment and accompanying remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Feb. 13, 2002

By: 

Andrew G. Rozycki, Reg. No. 36,406
Attorney for Applicant
Cardinal Health, Inc.
7000 Cardinal Place
Dublin, Ohio 43017
Telephone: (614) 757-7413
Facsimile: (614) 757-2243

APPARATUS FOR MAKING EMBOSSED BLISTER PACK

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Serial No. 09/549,127, filed April 13, 2000 which is a continuation-in-part of International Application No. PCT/GB99/02589 (WO 00/09313) filed 6 August 1999, which is based on and claims
5 the benefit of priority to Great Britain Patent Application GB9817793.4 filed on 14 August 1998.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to the field of packaging having blisters. In
10 particular, the present invention relates to blister packs formed from a laminated film and having indicia embossed thereon.

Background of the Invention

Blister films are particularly suited for the casting or molding of frangible
15 products or dosage forms which contain certain types of pharmaceuticals. These products are commonly made using lyophilization or freeze-drying processes. Alternative techniques, such as solid state dissolution methods, are also used to produce dosage forms which are frangible as well. These processes typically involve depositing a liquid form of the product into the blister(s), and then subjecting the
20 liquid-containing blister to various processes to form the final solid product while in

1. An apparatus for making an embossed blister formed from a laminated film comprising:

(a) a pin having a body and face portion, said face having an indicia thereon and said pin body being adapted to progressively engage the film from the pin face and comprising at least two contiguous frusto-conical portions having different apex angles;

(b) a platen bearing an indicia forming die therein and adapted to accommodate a laminated film thereon wherein said platen is in a base which is not configured to form a mold against which the laminated film is contoured; and

(c) means for advancing said pin towards and in engagement with said platen;

wherein said pin indicia and platen indicia are complementary and said pin is positioned transversally to said platen and adapted to controllably stretch said film to form a blister in a manner minimizing the stretching of the film located at the base of said blister.

2. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the pin face comprises a slightly concave surface having a peripheral edge.

3. The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the portion of the pin body adjacent to the pin face and the pin face comprise different materials having differing friction parameters.

10075824-021303